



THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

On 31st Street between Minnehaha and 28th Avenues Minneapolis, MN 55406 • 612-729-8358 • office@htlcmpls.org • www.htlcmpls.org
Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen, Angela T. Khabebe, and Doug Mork, Pastors

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP EATON

Dear church,

We have been living with this [pandemic](#) for nearly a year. So much has changed. Bubbles, personal protective equipment, social distancing and one-way grocery aisles are part of our lexicon and everyday experience. Who knew, a year ago, that face masks would be advertised as ideal stocking stuffers? Our homes have become offices, schools and gyms. Our commutes have been cut down from hours of traffic to walking over to the dining room table. I do not look forward to the weekly summary from my iPhone that tells me how many hours a day I am staring at a screen.

But the pandemic has also revealed the remarkable resilience and creativity of this church. Within weeks of shelter-in-place restrictions, thousands of our congregations converted to online worship, Bible studies and coffee hours. As the economy stuttered and people lost jobs, you stepped up the work of your food pantries. When kids needed internet access to go to virtual school, you became neighborhood hot spots.

We became more connected. And the gospel was heard by people who, in the "Before Times," would never have come to church. There is a story about the devil bragging to a pastor, saying that the pandemic was the devil's tool to close all the churches—to which the pastor replied, "We have opened a church in every home."

You have been generous. In March and April we began to hear concern from our bishops about synod ministries. What would happen to camps and campus ministries? What would happen to congregations that were anchors in communities and were already stressed before the pandemic? We offered [Daily Bread grants](#)—\$500 from the churchwide organization/\$500 from the local congregation. We hoped that 50 congregations might be able to raise the matching funds. So far 374 grants have been awarded. Working with synod bishops we launched the [COVID-19 Appeal](#), which is designed to support key ministries in synods. You stepped up and in eight months have given over \$1.7 million. These grants have been distributed to ministries in 62 of our 65 synods.

Now it's 2021. The pandemic is still with us. Yes, there are vaccines and distribution is being sorted out. There is an end in sight. But now is not the time to let down our guard. We'll keep washing our hands, wearing masks, and avoiding crowds. We will do this for ourselves and for each other. We will respect the disease and give thanks to God for the gift of science. And we will continue to worship, pray, and serve.

(continued on back side)

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

READINGS

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111;
1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

ADULT FORUM

SUNDAYS, 9:30 A.M.

Login at zoom.us or call 312-626-6799 or click [here](#)
Meeting ID: 858 5687 1594 / Password: 317879

To view the recorded Adult Forum from January 24, [click here](#).

JANUARY 31 "Lutheran Volunteer Corps"

Rachel Kennedy, Program Manager, LVC

Rachel comes to Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC) with a passion for community, connecting, volunteerism, and social justice. Rachel has a degree in Political Science and made the decision to use her degree specifically in the nonprofit setting. With experience in both volunteer management and direct service, past work has included working as a case manager for a shelter for immigrants, a volunteer coordinator for a local shelter for those experiencing homelessness, a connector of resources to those experiencing hunger, and a leader of interns at the Minnesota Historical Society, helping to connect history to the present.

FEBRUARY 7 "My Life Story, My Faith Story"

Don and Joyce Besser

As part of our ongoing commitment to sharing our narratives of faith, today we hear from members Don and Joyce Besser. Come and hear Don and Joyce tell their life stories, their faith stories.

LAKE STREET COUNCIL IS HIRING

The Lake Street Council is hiring for two [positions](#):

- Manager, Corridor Recovery Initiatives
- Donor Relations Manager

Please share with talented colleagues who are interested in Lake Street's recovery.

SHARING THE PEACE

We are going to share the peace in this weekend's worship video. Please record yourself saying "peace" and email it to the church office (office@htlcmpls.org) by Thursday night. We'd love to see your face!

CONCERNING PEOPLE

We pray for members of our community, including Andrew Alness' brother **Eric**, receiving treatment, and grandmother-in-law of ZoeAna Martinez, **Graciela Vazquez**, diagnosed with colon cancer.

(Message from Bishop Eaton, cont. from first page)

The pandemic has also taught us something about ourselves. Though we are physically distant, we are connected. Paul put it this way in a letter to the Corinthians: "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it" (1 Corinthians 12:26-27).

It is our joyful duty to care for one another, particularly the most vulnerable. It is an act of faithfulness when we limit ourselves so that the pandemic is brought to heel. It is an act of love when we restrict our travel or wear a mask. As Martin Luther pointed out in [*The Freedom of a Christian*](#), it is the freedom we have in Christ that makes us servants of all.

There is a model of such self-giving, self-limiting love. "Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:4-8).

I pray that we all live in such freedom.

Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

TELL ME ANOTHER

In the coming weeks, as part of our Communities of Calling initiative, Holy Trinity will introduce a new Intergenerational Conversation Project; one that begins with individual stories shared between the adults and young people in our congregation. These stories can be as simple as describing the neighborhood or church you grew up in, that "epic" camping trip you took, or the first time you cooked a turkey for your relatives at Thanksgiving. To "find" your story, begin with a strong memory or unforgettable character and return to the scene, so to speak. "Opening Night" is scheduled for Sunday, February 7, at 5:00 p.m. on Zoom. You do NOT have to share a story; log on to hear from all kinds of folks, young and old. Linnea Krig will host these monthly sessions. Click here <https://signup.com/go/vnRvzaC> to sign up.

ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 31 AT 12:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM

All members are invited to join the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 31, 12:00 p.m. via Zoom, as we celebrate the 117th year of God's ministry through Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. We will review committee goals, elect new council members, approve the 2021 budget, vote on a Congregational Statement on the Care of Creation, and vote on the Stepping Out in Faith recommendations for the money we received from the Trinity Apartments transaction.

The annual meeting is also an opportunity for us to check on progress made toward our congregational goals. The annual report and a link to the Zoom meeting were sent to all members with the January 24 worship link on Saturday, January 23. Pastor Ingrid will send the Zoom link again on Saturday, January 30, with her worship video email.

REPARATIONS: AN INTRODUCTION AND A CHALLENGE

Sponsored by the Racial Justice and Doctrine of Discovery Groups, this discussion series will be offered Wednesday evenings, January 20 through February 10, from 7:00 to 8:15p.m. via Zoom. Reparations for racial injustice involves much more than possible financial compensation for past deeds. One of the first steps is "truth telling" and hearing the stories of the victims of racial crimes. Participants will have short podcasts or articles to review before the meetings and guests from the congregation or community will present and facilitate discussions. This is the start of several series on reparations this year which we hope will include planning for actions we can take as individuals or as communities.

Click [here](#) to view the first session from January 20, 2021.

The second session of the discussion series on reparations, *Reparations for Native Nations*, will be held on **Wednesday, January 27, at 7:00 p.m.**, via [Zoom](#). (Click the link to attend, or call 312-626-6799: Member ID 838 8193 4677, Passcode 830967.) Jody Beaulieu, enrolled member of the Red Lake Nation and long-time activist will be the presenter. The session will address both the physical (land loss) aspects of reparations as well as the spiritual costs of a history of genocide—broken treaties, boarding schools, and the other ways Native nations have experienced oppression—and what might be done about it at this time.

Prior to the session, participants are encouraged to watch the Mark Charles video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fYZ2rj2Jooc>.

The third session of the series, *Reparations for African Americans*, will be held on **Wednesday, February 3, at 7:00 p.m.** via [Zoom](#). (Click the link to attend, or call 312-626-6799: Member ID 838 8193 4677, Passcode 830967.) Courtlandt Butts, an African American educator and advocate for equity and social change, based in Atlanta, will co-facilitate the session. We will touch on challenges faced by African Americans in US history and begin conversation about how to face this brutal legacy in our day.

Participants are strongly encouraged to watch the 32-minute video entitled: ["Spark: A Systemic Racism Story"](#) and may also want to read the transcript of ["The Fight for a True Democracy"](#) from the New York Times [1619 Project](#) podcast.

THE HILL WE CLIMB BY AMANDA GORMAN

If you did not see or hear youth poet laureate Amanda Gorman recite her poem, *The Hill We Climb* at the Presidential inauguration last week, you can view it [here](#) (and we highly recommend that you do!).

MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERY FEBRUARY 1-5

Holy Trinity will be delivering meals for South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels the week of February 1-5. Meals are picked up at Nokomis Square Condominiums (at delivery dock) on 35th Ave. S. and 50th St. at 11:15 a.m. Volunteers are needed for 1-5 days of the week. Delivery takes about 1-1 1/2 hours. Contact Mary Engen (engenmary@yahoo.com) if interested.

WORSHIP LINK FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

The worship video for Sunday, January 24, can be found [here](#).